schools run by un-aided managements. For the year 2006-07, the figure of 73,00,000 has been arrived at in respect of children studying in Government, Local Body, Aided Schools and EGS Centres, excluding un-aided schools.

(c) and (d) The total cooking cost for mid-day meal is Rs. 2/-, of which Central Assistance is available @ Rs. 1.80 per child per school day for States in the North East Region (NER) and Rs. 1.50 per child per school day in other States. Keeping in view the difficult terrain in the NER, State contribution is minimum of Rs. 0.20 in the case of NER and Rs. 0.50 in the case of other States.

(e) and (f) Yes, Madam. Guidelines of revised Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been issued in September, 2006. The revised guidelines provide:—

(i) Nutritional norm of 450 calories and 12 grams of protein.

(ii) Assistance for cooking cost as per details in (c) and (d) above.

(iii) The revised guidelins reiterate the importance of convergence with other development programmes for construction of kitchen sheds. However, where convergence is not possible, assistance @ Rs. 60,000 per unit for construction of kitchen-cum-store and Rs. 5,000 per school for kitchen devices are provided.

(iv) Guidelines also provide for convergence with National Rural Health Mission for necessary interventions such as regular health check-up supplementation of micronutrients and de-worming medicines etc.

Identification of universities and colleges for quality education

582. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Programme for Promotion of Quality and Excellence in Education, the University Grants Commission has identified universities and colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the concept of securing accredition by the National Academic Accreditation Council for quality in education is catching up with a large number of unrecognized colleges and universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC have three schemes namely (i) Universities with Potential for Excellence (UPE), (ii) Centre with Potential for Excellence and (iii) Colleges with Potential for Excellence (CPE), with a view to promote quality and Excellence in selected universities/colleges. 9 Universities, 12 Centres and 97 Colleges respectively of excellence have been selected under these schemes.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, as per the information furnished by the UGC, National Academic Accreditation Council has so far accredited 130 Universities and 2955 Colleges in the country.

Projection on education expenditure

583. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government projected to spend 6 per cent domestic product on education, half of this on primary and secondary education alone;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that to fund this ambitious project Government imposed education cess on all Central taxes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that share of education in the States' aggregate budgetary allocation has declined in 2005-06 in comparison to what they allocated five years ago in 2001-02; and

(d) if so, the details of all the expenditure on education compared to the total budget for the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government pledges to raise public spending on education to at least 6% of GDP in a phased manner with at least half this amount being spent on the primary and secondary education sectors. Government introduced 2% Education Cess from 2004 to finance the Government's commitment to quality basic education to children in the 6-14 years age-group.